

USDA



Farm Service Agency

Kentucky

COC Election NEWS

Dear Producer:

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is soliciting candidates for the County FSA Committee (COC) from June 15 through August 15, 2005. (Extended)

Local Administrative Areas

A county or multi-county area served by the county committee is divided into 3 to 5 local administrative areas (LAA). Each LAA is represented by one member on the county committee. A person may only vote in one LAA in each county or multi-county area in which they participate or cooperate in FSA program or programs administered by FSA.

County Committee Duties

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA Programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operations, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

Nomination Form

Form FSA-669A, included in this newsletter, allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. Organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers may nominate any eligible candidate. If additional forms are needed, the one attached may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have name placed on ballot and agrees to serve if elected.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 15. (Extended)

Nomination forms and fact sheets in English or Spanish are also available at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections> or <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov>.

USDA Farm Service Agency
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Nomination Form, Continued

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file an appeal in accordance with 7 CFR Part 780.

Terms

No member of a County Committee may serve more than three consecutive three-year terms. A member will be considered to have served a term if that member served for a period of one and one-half years, or greater, of that term. This

provision shall take effect with the 2005 election and will be applied retroactively to any prior terms served by those persons seeking office in the 2005 election.

Election Date

The County FSA Committee election will be held this year on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters no later than November 4, 2005.

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Contact your local FSA County Office to:

- ✓ Obtain additional information on FSA programs, or
- ✓ Report a name and/or address change.

2005 Election Calendar

- ✓ **June 15** Nomination period begins.
- ✓ **August 1** Final date to file nomination forms at County Office. *Nomination forms must be returned to the FSA County Office or be postmarked by August 1, 2005.*
- ✓ **Nov 4** Final date for contractor to mail ballots to eligible voters.
- ✓ **Dec 5** Final date for returning completed ballots to the County Office. *Ballots must be returned to the FSA County Office or be postmarked by Dec 5, 2005.*
- ✓ **Jan 1, 2006** Newly elected committee members and alternates take office.